

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 17-19, 22, 23, 25, 27-30, 62 and 65 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Koichi et al. Claim 26 was rejected over Koichi et al. in view of Katsuhiko. Claims 7, 8 and 11 are being canceled and conforming amendments are being made to claims 9, 10, and 12-15.

Claim 1 is being amended to further include the feature of claim 65, which is being canceled. Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 65 recited a specific annular member structure corresponding to Fig. 2, and page 53, lines 5-18. Note the “guide edge portion” 46, which is an embodiment of the claimed “projection...that protrudes downward” in claim 65.

Claim 65 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Koichi et al., JP 07-122529. However, Koichi et al. fail to disclose the feature recited in claim 65. The Examiner indicated that the seal ring 20 in Koichi et al.’s arrangement corresponds to the annular member in claim 65. However, the seal ring 20 of Koichi et al. does not have “a projection at the inner periphery of the annular member that protrudes downward and toward the substrate from the substrate-opposing surface”. The Examiner has referred to Figs. 1 and 2 of Koichi et al.’s patent; however, no projection is found on the lower surface of the seal ring 20. Nothing in the Office Action identifies such a projection in Koichi et al.’s drawings. Therefore, the rejection of claim 65, now incorporated into claim 1, must be respectfully traversed. Claim 1 is requested to be allowed.

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koichi et al. in view of Katsuhiko, JP11-330031. However, Katsuhiko does not even suggest an annular member. Therefore, Katsuhiko cannot teach or suggest an annular groove formed in an annular member. Further, in order to clarify the meaning of “annular groove”, claim 26 has been amended to state that the annular groove is “continuous”. For at least this reason, the rejection of claim 26 is requested to be withdrawn.

Allowance of claims 1, 3-6, 17-19, 22, 23, 25-30 and 62 is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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